

Research, and the head of the Syrian Center for the Defense of Detainees.

On October 2 of 2012, 6 years ago, Mr. Maatouk was being driven to work by a friend, and that was the last time anyone was able to reach him. It is very possible that he was illegally detained at a security checkpoint by the Syrian Government. Even though a released detainee at the State Security detention facility in Damascus said he saw Khalil there, the Syrian general prosecutor has still denied his whereabouts.

Six years is long enough, Madam Speaker. It is time for the Syrian Government to release Khalil. He has dedicated his life to the defense of human rights, and it is past time that he gets to return to his family.

THE TRUMP SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 20th day of the Trump shutdown, and I can only shake my head and ask why.

Why are 400,000 public servants being denied the opportunity to do their jobs?

Why are 420,000 more working without pay, many of them who put themselves in harm's way?

Why are 1.6 million Ohioans at risk of losing their SNAP benefits?

Why are first-time home buyers being kept from their new homes?

There is only one answer to those questions: Because Trump insists on wasting \$5 billion of the people's tax dollars on a vanity wall, a wall that will do little to address illegal immigration.

Democrats are for the people. Democrats want to protect our borders and reopen our government and put government workers back to work.

I urge the Senate to take up the bills that the House has passed and put our government back to work. Let's end this ridiculous shutdown.

□ 1230

IMPORTANCE OF STEM EDUCATION

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express and demonstrate the importance of STEM education in the lives of America's youth.

STEM education is vital to the economy, with STEM-related jobs growing faster than ever and the need for well-educated and well-trained young STEM professionals greater than ever.

STEM education also facilitates critical thinking skills, innovation, creativity, as well as cooperative learning.

Just one example of the impact that STEM education has at an early age is Janani Kumaran, an eighth grader

from Gainesville who placed second out of over 2,000 entries in the Broadcom Foundation MASTERS of STEM middle school competition.

Janani created a project using snails to reduce the negative effects of the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla found in many bodies of freshwater in Florida.

Congratulations to Janani. I look forward to everything you and the other great youth of America will be able to achieve because of STEM education, to keep our country great.

TRUMP SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the President's senseless shutdown.

Over 5,000 Federal employees are affected in Michigan alone. These dedicated Michiganders are confronted with: How do I put food on my table? What bills will I pay? Which car or home payment can I afford? Which prescription do I fill?

These are real questions my constituents are now asking themselves.

Throwing a temper tantrum and threatening to keep the government shut down only reflects the President's lack of compassion for the citizens of this great country.

In Michigan, programs that provide home heating assistance or nutritional support for 1.5 million Michiganders are being held hostage by this President.

Federal support for small businesses is on the line.

One in ten workers in Michigan relies on SNAP to put food on their table.

Also, our highly esteemed veterans are waiting for us to do our job.

Every Democrat is devoted and committed to border safety. I will not vote for and I will not fund an ineffective wall. I want real border security.

I do support us doing our job. I just hope the President comes to his senses and stops hurting our country and our constituents.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING NIKOS MOUYIARIS

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an entrepreneur, innovator, and philanthropist who truly lived the American Dream.

In 1975, Nikos Mouyiaris received a \$6,000 grant from his brother. He turned that small loan into a company that would become one of the world's most prestigious cosmetic manufacturers and developers.

A proud Greek American, Nikos dedicated his life to giving back to his

community, and his spirit demonstrates that we all benefit when we open our doors to hardworking immigrants who believe in the promise of America.

Nikos said: "We are successful not because we are smart; not because we worked hard; not because we were lucky; but because we had the good fortune of being able to stand on the shoulders of others."

As his loved ones mourn this devastating loss, we can take comfort in knowing that an entire community will be standing on his shoulders.

SAUDI ARABIA'S GENOCIDAL WAR IN YEMEN

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, 100 days ago today, the Saudi regime ordered the assassination of a journalist named Jamal Khashoggi.

This atrocity brought the world's attention to Saudi Arabia, a radical Wahhabi theocracy where the oppression of women and the persecution of Christians, Hindus, atheists, and other religious minorities, as well as the LGBT community, is a norm.

Since 2015, the United States has supported Saudi Arabia's genocidal war in Yemen that has killed tens of thousands of civilians, causing millions of Yemeni people to suffer, starve, and get sick, creating the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

They spend billions of dollars spreading the extreme Wahhabi-Salafist ideology that fuels terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaida around the world.

Contrary to what President Trump believes, Saudi Arabia is not our friend.

Here we are, 100 days later, and this Congress still refuses to take action to stop U.S. support for Saudi Arabia, to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Congress must act now to end its support for Saudi Arabia's genocidal war in Yemen, exercise our constitutional authority over matters of war, and stop putting the profits of the military-industrial complex before the lives of the American people and people in the world.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 28, I call up the bill (H.R. 265) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the bill is considered read.